

THE

שקל

SHEKEL

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HIGHLIGHTS

Israel's 25th Anniversary Numismatics

A Chronology of Hasmonean Coinage

A Ride on Haifa's Subway

Medals of the Holy Land (cont.)

Palestine Mandate Note at Auction

Tokens for Potatoes and Burials

Early and Late JNF Medals

AINA's First Convention Planned

A Third One Agora — 1962 Variety

Club News and Others

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THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. *THE SHEKEL* will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, *THE SHEKEL* will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



To my many Jewish friends, this is the period of start of the Jewish New Year. (And I wish one and all of them a happy and prosperous year of good health and many joys!)

But I must admit, the "New Year" started for me some months back; I

have been living in 1973 far ahead of the calendar. 1973 is going to be the most auspicious year for AINA since the launching our national association and the formation of the many active local INS groups affiliated with AINA.

Elsewhere in this issue of *The Shekel* you will read of the planned AINA Fifth Study Tour to Israel. We had arranged in Israel for the largest contingent of AINA tour members in our history, reserving 120 beds for the March trip, almost double the number who shared the 1972 experience.

I am happy to tell you that one of the reasons I have been involved with

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ISRAEL ANNOUNCES 25th ANNIVERSARY PLANS FOR NEW COINS AND MEDALS

During its 25th anniversary year, the State of Israel will issue three different commemorative silver coins, a set of three gold coins, a novel set of mintmarked trade coins and a State medal, according to data released in early September by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp., Jerusalem.

The first issue within the 25th anniversary program will be the 1973 (5733) Hanukka Coin. This issue reintroduces the Hanukka (*Feast of Lights*) series, which was discontinued in 1963 after six yearly issues. In keeping with tradition established in the earlier issues, the motif chosen for the forthcoming coin is a *contemporary Russian Hanukka lamp*. The face value of the new Hanukka Coin will be IL 5; its diameter: 34mm the same as earlier IL 5 commemorative coins; and its metal: silver 750. mintage figures will be: B.U. — 75,000; Proof — 22,500. The coin is expected to be released in December.

At approximately the same time, the *Bank of Israel* will issue the fourth coin in the yearly series of Pidyon Haben (*Redemption of the Firstborn*) issues, which started in 1970. The 1973 issue will have the same specifications as the previous ones, viz. face value: IL 10; diameter: 37mm; metal: silver 900. However, this year the coin has been redesigned on both the *obverse* and *reverse*, thus discontinuing the similar designs that characterized the first three issues.

The quantity to be struck of the B. U. version of the Pidyon Haben silver coin will, as in previous years,

be determined at the end of the year, when its sale will be discontinued with the release of the next coin in the annual series. The mintage figure of the proof version is 15,000.

The following numismatic issue will be the 25th anniversary State medal planned for release early in 1973. This medal will depict on the obverse Israel's 25th anniversary official emblem; the reverse will carry a mosaic found in a 6th Century synagogue at Beit Alpha, portraying the zodiac. The 25th anniversary medal will be issued, for the time being, in only two versions: a 59mm diameter bronze medal, and a 45mm diameter silver medal.

In March, 1973, the annual mintmarked set of trade coins will be issued. This time, however, the sets will be distinguished from the regular coinage in circulation, not only by the Star of David mintmark, but by two additional features: a) all six denominations will be minted in *cupro-nickel*, and thus will be of uniform silver-like color and texture; and b) all six coins will carry the Hebrew inscription: "*Kaf-Hey Limdinat Israel*" (the State of Israel's 25 years"). The final figure of the mintmarked sets has not yet been determined.

The highlight of the numismatic program of Israel's 25th anniversary year will be the *Independence Day* issue set for release in May, 1973. The theme of this coin is Israel's *Proclamation of Independence*, in a schematically miniaturized replica of the very document that was signed by the

(Continued on page 12)

A RIDE ON HAIFA'S CARMELIT (Or How Two Tokens Are Not Better Than One!)

by Eli Semmelman, Haifa

Dr. Benjamin Zeev Herzl who aptly foresaw the statehood of Israel also predicted in his book, *Altneuland* the future development of Haifa from a large harbor city of 50 years ago into the commercial and industrial center of today. To connect the harbor at sea level with the homes and living quarters of the workers and their families on the hillsides above, Dr. Herzl suggested an electric train as the ideal locomotion system.

Herzl's idea were considered for many years by many people and organizations seeking a plan to solve the growing transportation problem; but it took the energetic and imaginative Haifa Municipality itself to conclude a contract with French construction companies in 1956.

Topographically, Haifa is a city of three levels: a *downtown*, consisting of the harbor, a nearby railroad terminal, typical portside stores, and modern shopping streets, markets and the wholesale centers; a *central level*, Hadar Hacarmel, 60 meters above sea

level with its retail shopping areas, municipal offices, sites for amusement and entertainment facilities, and residential areas; and finally, *Mt. Carmel*, 300 meters above the sea, essentially a residential quarter.

Connecting these three levels with a speedy, comfortable and practical transportation system which would speed the trip from top-to-bottom without the endless snakepath of roads coming down the hillsides was an endless topic of public discussion. The solution by the Haifa Municipality developed in conjunction with experienced French builders was a cable car system to be built *underground* without demolishing homes or confiscating expensive land which had already been suitably developed for the needs of the community.

The underground tunnel is 1800 meters long in a straight line, shortening the 5000 meter bus trip to one-third by eliminating the snake route of the buses and providing in seven minutes a trip which lasts 35 minutes by bus.



From the port below to the Mt. Carmel Heights: 7 minutes underground.

The station at the lowest level of the Carmelit Tunnel is the *Paris Square*, located in the heart of the downtown business center, crossing below Prophet Street which is the center for cinemas, cafes, and numerous retail stores. At its heights, the tube reaches the Carmel Center at *Gan Haem* (Mother's Park).

Along the tunnel are six stations starting with *Paris Square*, *Solel Boneh*, *Hanevyim*, *Mazada*, *Eliahu Golomb* and *Gan Haem*. Two trains make the trip on the single track, meeting at a point where the tunnel is double its normal 3.30 meter width. In a channel beneath the train runs the cable that draws the trains.

With doors on both sides of the cable cars, the tunnel is widened at each train station to permit exit and walks. Arriving and departing riders rise to street level from the tunnel via escalators in five of the stations.



Each of the cars run on pneumatic wheels (tires). Each of the two compartments hold 165 passengers. As in the overhead cable car system of the Alps, one car is rising as the other is descending. Trains leave every ten minutes from 5:30 AM to midnite, carrying 10,000 passengers daily in an automatic (driverless) operation at 30 kilometers-per-hour (about 20MPH). A staff of 45, engineers, electricians, mechanics and station attendants are



Top: Entry Token

Below: Exit Token

the underground's total working force. The only subway in the entire Middle East started its successful operation on October 6, 1959.

Numismatists will be interested to know that it took *two* tokens per ride initially: one to *enter*, another to *depart*. It soon became obvious that there was no need for the exit token and its endless waiting lines and irritated passengers. Today only the *entry* token is in use; a small (15mm) brass token with inscription "*Hadar*" is used in a turnstile to enter the system at any terminal. The exit token (17mm) of white metal and inscribed "*Carmel*" is no longer made available to the public.

The opposite side of the token offers the initials (in Hebrew) of the *Haifa Communication Enterprise* and the full word (in Hebrew), *Haifa*.

The tiny tokens are known by nearly every Israeli, many of whom found the ride a novel experience. Today tourists are often taken to the *Paris Square* station and met above by their waiting tour bus on the Mt. Carmel heights.

Collectors of the tokens of Israel, and particularly of transportation-related tokens, will want to have both the brass and white metal tokens to represent the only subway system in Israel, the least expensive subway ride in the world:

Mr. Semmelman wishes to express his gratitude to the Management of the Carmelit which cooperated in providing background information for this special article for The Shekel.

A NEW HYPOTHESIS ABOUT THE CHRONOLOGY OF HASMONEAN COINAGE

by Herbert Hirsch, Tivon. Israel

With the publication of his M.A. Thesis on Jewish coins, Yaacov Meshorer broke entirely with the main hypothesis to date concerning Hasmonaean coinage (viz. that of Arje Kindler). His hypothesis states that Jewish coinage began with the coming to power of Alexander Yannai, and that consequently all Yehohanan coins belong to Hyrcanus II. Kindler believes that some of the Yehohanan coins belong to Hyrcanus I and some to Hyrcanus II. In my paper, *The chronology of the Hasmonaean coinage*, published in Hebrew in the *ALON* of the *Israel Numismatic Society*, I affirmed Kindler's theory. During the last year I became more and more doubtful. My doubts have to do with the improbability that nearly identical coins were struck by two different rulers with a hiatus of some 50 years. At this writing, I am convinced that all Yehohanan coins were struck by the same ruler, thus agreeing principally with Meshorer's theory. But in contradiction to his theory I believe that the Yehohanan coins belong to Hyrcanus I, and that Hyrcanus II did not strike coins at all.

I take my arguments from two sources: 1) History (mainly Flavius Josephus and the books of the Maccabees) 2) the coins themselves.

I

Simon the Maccabee was made High Priest and Ethnarch in 143 BC by his own people, and was granted the same titles three years later by Antiochus VII Sidetes, who at that time still nominally ruled the country. He also obtained from the same ruler

the right to strike coins (138 BC). It is true that until this time we have not found any coins struck by Simon, and since Antiochus withdrew the privileges a year later, he may not have struck coins at all. He was murdered by his son-in-law Ptolemy, in 135, and Yehohanan Hyrcanus, his son, who had been saved from the same fate, was given his titles shortly thereafter. One year after the beginning of his reign (i.e. 134) Antiochus Sidetes made war against him. However peace was restored soon, partly due to the moderation of Sidetes. It appears that from about 125 Yehohanan was not considered a vassal any more, but an independent ruler.

This can be shown by two events:

1) Josephus Flavius writes in *Antiquities of the Jews* that "Hyrcanus opened the sepulchre of King David and took out 3000 Talents, and he was the first of the Jews that, relying on his wealth, maintained foreign troops."

2) When Hyrcanus sent ambassadors to Rome to renew a friendship pact, those ambassadors were sent by the *People of the Jews* (Flavius, *ibid.*), which must have been some parliamentary body, and seems to have been quite clearly the

חבר היהודים

written on the coins.

As Akko struck its first coins in 129 BC and Tyrus in 126, which they were only able to do because the Seleucid power was almost non-existent at that time, there is no reason to assume that Yehohanan Hyrcanus would not have been able to strike coins, had he so wished.



Photo No. 1



Photo No. 2

II

If we look for coins of this period, we must seek an integration of following elements: Seleucid tradition, High Priesthood, Ethnarch, the people of the Jews. There clearly exists a coin which fits these requirements entirely, namely No. 25 of the Meshorer corpus. Flan and manner of striking are entirely Seleucid; coins of the same making appear at that time in Akko, Ascalon, and also in Egypt, as well as in the Seleucid dynasty itself. Instead of the usual head, only a helmet appears, since a head was religiously unacceptable to the Jews at that time.

The inscription states: *Yehohanan the High Priest, and the Head of the People of the Jews.*

There are two other denominations with the same inscription, namely the prutah and $\frac{1}{2}$ prutah. Some of these bear a monogram, generally consisting of 3 dots $\cdot\cdot\cdot$, which could be alpha, lamda or delta (M 22-23-24). All these letters occur on coins to come, together with appha pi (Α) and parts thereof. The denomination of No. 25 was discontinued, consequently it is extremely rare, as is the $\frac{1}{2}$ prutah. The prutah is common and exists in two different graphological styles.



22



24



23



25



26



27



28



29

There exists an epigraphic table which was arranged by Kindler and published by L. Kadman in *Recent Studies and Researches*, where he put these "head" coins at the end. While accepting his epigraphic conclusions, I would like to point out that there is no

objective evidence for his sequence and one can quite easily turn the list around and begin with the end; almost nothing is changed in this manner, and still my new theory holds good.

If we accept the assumption that the "head" coins are to be put first, we



14



15



16



17



17A



18



18A



19



20



20A



21

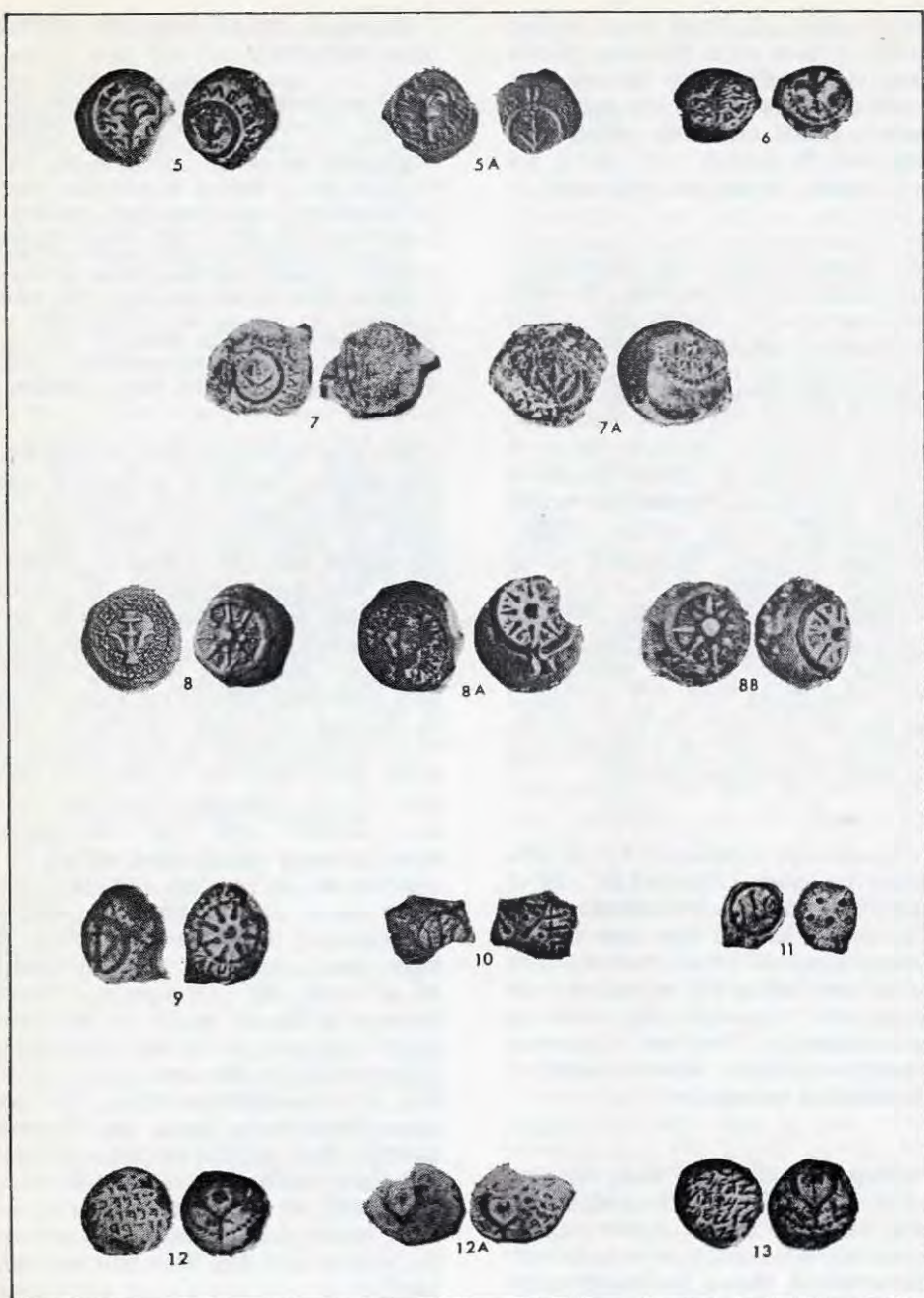


21A

are forced by the numismatic evidence to conclude that all coins bearing the name of Yehohanan were issued by the same ruler. They are all entirely identical except for small differences in style of script, cornucopiae and wreath (M 18, 18A, 19, 20, 20A, 26,

27 for the prutah, resp. M 21, 21A for the $\frac{1}{2}$ prutah).

I would explain these differences in the following manner: when it became evident that it was mainly the prutah that was needed as small currency



(for large currency probably the shekel of Tyre was used — the dollar of those days), the striking of No. 22-25 was discontinued and the word head omitted. New die-cutters were accepted, everyone of them introducing his own style on both sides of the coin. It is striking to note that in style

the obverse coincides with that of the reverse. It is still more interesting to observe the exceptions which exist with almost every style-variety. We can imagine that one of the die-cutters fell ill and another one had to take over. E. g. I have some 5 specimens of M 27 (legend) linked with M 18

(cornucopiae), three of them in the Kadman Numismatic Museum, which shows clearly that they are contemporary and not 50 years apart, as Kindler postulates. The differences within the 1/2 prutah (21, 21A) are much smaller, owing to their rarity.

I suggest the following chronology: After M 22 - 23 comes 18A (the same script generally, almost the same cornucopiae and wreath, sometimes with monogram, more often without, probably cut by the same man), then M 18, 20, 20A, 21, 21A (with and without monogram, probably made by two men, according to two distinctive styles, and content **והנר** and **והנר** monogram  and , as well as , and parts thereof), 19 (much better designed, monogram  — a Greek die-cutter?), 27 (always without monogram, some overlapping with 18), 26 (always without monogram, some overlapping with 27). I suggest that also the monograms were discontinued, as no coins of Yehudah and Yehonathan have monograms.

The coinage mentioned up to now covers the years 125 - 104 BC. Since from 110 until 104 Yehohanan ruled in an area more or less that of our contemporaneous Israel, and as there was no war during this period, we can assume that economic life went on quite normally. However a normal economic existence without currency is impossible to conceive.

Yehohanan died in 104. We are certain about his Hebrew and Greek name, because in the books of the Maccabees his name is written in full. Afterwards all names of Jewish rulers are known only in Greek (there is one mentioning of Judas Aristobulus in Ant XX,X). Since some of the Numismatic evidence is ambiguous, there exists some controversy about this point. I should like to propose a new hypothesis here, and I hope to be able to explain some of the problems that remained open until now.

Flavius Josephus writes as follows (Ant XIII, XI):

Now when their father Hyrcanus was dead, the eldest son Aristobulus, intending to change the government into a kingdom, for so he resolved to do, first of all put a diadem in his head, four hundred and eighty one years and three months after the people had been delivered from the Babylonian slavery, and were returned to their own country again. This Aristobulus loved his next brother Antigonus, and treated him as his equal; . . . yet he seemed to have an affection for him, and made him above the rest a partner with him in the kingdom.

My new hypothesis goes as follows: The Hebrew name of Antigonus was Yonathan (Kindler writes Yenaten, in order to differentiate), while that of Alexander was Yehonathan — Aristobulus was called Yehudah as above mentioned. In these troubled time nobody dared to strike new coins with the title "king" on them, probably they restrained themselves from doing so, because of public resentment, and only Yannai dared to take this step seven years later. We have three variants of the Yehudah coins and they are identical with the Yehohanan coins in every detail. One variant resembles M 26 in style (M 28), the other has a bigger letter type, but is still identical, while the third, which is rather rare, resembles in every detail no 23 (M 29). Overlapping exists between M 28 and M 29. At the same time Antigonus, Aristobulus' brother, struck coins in his own name (103 BC) in two different styles, with the name Yenaten on them (M 15, and another type, published here for the first time (photo No. 1). Of this coin, practically no specimens are in existence, as all these coins were restruck by Yannai with the flower motif (see later).

In 103, after the murder of Antigonus and the death of Aristobulus (both his brothers) Alexander Yannai came to power, after having been freed from prison by Alexandra (Aristobulus' wife), whom he soon married. We have four variants of coins bearing his name and title (i. e. High

Priest). (M 12 - 13 - 14 and one I publish here for the first time (photo No. 2). Of these variants No. 12 is entirely identical with the newly published Yenaten coin, 13 is identical with 28, and the newly published one (second photo) with 15 (the coin is mentioned in Meshorer as No. 16 this being the same variant but retrograde). This graphological evidence strongly supports the new hypothesis.

For the next seven years of his reign, Yannai was at war with the remaining forces of the Seleucids, until in 96 he took Gaza. At that time he had no reason not to call himself king, the more so because he ruled over more Greeks than Jews, and had many Greek mercenaries in his army. So an entirely new die was made, with an old Jewish symbol on it, the Fleur de Lis, and the Seleucid anchor on the reverse, showing that at that time he styled himself the heir of the Seleucid empire in his kingdom. He seems to have found many coins of Yenaten (Antigonos) in stock, and decided to restrike them with the flower motif.

An Opposing Viewpoint

I am fully aware that with this supposition I am in opposition to every hypothesis held in the Numismatic World to this day. It is unanimously held that the cornucopiae-script type (M 17) is struck on the flower motif and not vice versa. I have examined more than 100 of these coins. While most of them are extremely ambiguous and it cannot be decided with certainty which is on which, I have not come across one of them where it can be seen with certainty that the cornucopiae is on the flower. The letter layout of the variant is unique and does not exist on any other coin in existence. This means that Yannai had the clear intention to wipe out this coin type.

The flower motif (without overstriking) exists in two denominations: prutah (M 5), and $\frac{1}{2}$ prutah (M 6 — only a few pieces known).

We come now to a coin type which exists in enormous quantities and

really forms the great bulk of the Jewish coins in every finding (M 8). The best of these pieces are beautifully designed, weigh exceptionally up to 6 grams, while the smallest pieces weigh less than 1 gram. It is difficult to come to conclusions about a denomination, as extreme overlapping exists, and except my assumption that at that time many mints existed (Jerusalem, Galilee and coastal plain mint), I leave the issue open. In any case, clear-cut denominations do not exist.

There is one coin left which need to be explained separately (M 9). This coin has a special place within the whole Hasmonaean coinage because 1) it is written not in Hebrew, but in Aramaic and 2) it is dated. These coins were rather a riddle from the time that Hill described them as wretched copies of Yannai coins. Dr. Naveh, with my help, found out in 1968 that the inscription is in square Hebrew and reads (in Aramaic) "year 25 of king Alexander (= 78 BC). There are some rare lead coins (M 7) with the same inscription but without date, as well as very small, very barbarous coins of the same type (M 10 - 11).

The explanation could be as follows: The last three years of his reign Yannai was quite ill, and it seems that at that time his wife Alexandra was de facto already ruler of the country. As is known, she was much nearer the Pharisees than her husband, and on his advice, made many compromises to them after his death. I would thus suggest that this coin is just such a compromise. The letters are in Aramaic (the language of the people) for the first time in history. When Yannai died, Alexandra took over officially, but being a woman, she could not be High Priest, and so she made her son Hyrcanus High Priest. Now there was a dilemma: as a woman she would probably not be allowed to strike coins by the ruling Pharisees, while Hyrcanus was not ruler. So again a compromise was made: the Aramaic coins of Yannai were continued to be used, until the death of Alexandra in 67 BC.

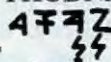
Another Compromise

After her death another compromise took place. According to Flavius (*Wars of the Jews I,VI*): "But they came to an agreement before things should come to extremities, that Aristobulus should be king, and Hyrcanus should resign that up, but retain all the rest of his dignities, as being the king's brother." It is more than improbable that in the light of these facts Aristobulus would strike coins with High Priest on them, while he was king. On the other hand he would not allow Hyrcanus to strike coins, *he* being the ruler. So the compromise continued during the civil war, both the brothers waiting for the opportunity to seize the whole power. Pompey ended this situation. No example is known to me that a vassal of Rome who was integrated into the empire in the time of Pompey, continued to strike coins (until Caesar, who was much more liberal). On the contrary, most of the Greek cities, who were loyal to the Romans out of enmity of the Jews, begin their era with Pompey.

This means that no further coins were struck in Judaea, until the time of Antigonus in 40 BC., who seized power with the help of the Parthians against the Roman integration. There is no continuity of coinage, the bulk of the coins of Antigonus being entirely different in flan, material and design.

There are a few points left to draw attention to:

1) Meshorer published a coin which reads YHUDNAN (M 26 with

a mistake — ). He points out that this mistake could only have happened if Yehudah ruled before Yehohanan and this was the case only with Aristobulus II. My explanation is much simpler: Yehudah Maccabi was at that time just 40 years dead and a Freudian mistake could occur to everybody.

2) Meshorer relies on the stratigraphy in the old city of Jerusalem. I am extremely skeptical about the

reliability of such a stratigraphy in a place where so much happened from the time of Titus and through so many invasions since.

I cannot finish this paper without thanking Mr. Micha Gadiel of Haifa. He was the first to draw my attention to some features of the Yehohanan "head" coins, and without his help this paper may not have been written. I am very grateful also to Mr. Kindler and Pater Spykerman, who both allowed me to make studies in their resp. Museum collections, as well as to Mr. Meshorer, who allowed me to make use of the photographs in his book.

ISRAEL'S 25TH YEAR PROGRAM

(Continued)

'founding fathers' of the State on May 14th, 1948. In keeping with successful precedent, this silver commemorative coin with a face value of IL 10, will be minted in both B.U. and Proof varieties, in quantities to be determined at a later stage.

In addition, three gold coins, all in proof condition, will be issued concurrently with the same theme. Face values will be IL 50, IL 100 and IL 200. This is the first time in Israel's numismatic history that a gold coin bears a face value of IL 200. The three gold coins will be marketed as a set in an olive-wood box. Additional quantities of the IL 50 and IL 100 denominations will be sold individually to collectors who may not elect to purchase a complete set.

According to Rafel Aldor, a Director for North America of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp., gold coins will not be available to American citizens, due to United States Government regulations prohibiting their import to this country.

Ordering procedures for the other issues, says Mr. Aldor, will be duly announced in the numismatic press.

Fifth Annual Study Tour To Israel Set

The most overwhelming response in AINA history to the plans for the largest Study Tour to Israel in AINA history has already accounted for reservations for over 70 of the 120 tour reservations allocated to AINA for the March 1973 trip.

Overwhelming pressure for hotel rooms during the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Year of the State of Israel has made it difficult for all tour planners to obtain deluxe rooms. AINA has obtained the largest bloc of rooms in its history by having guaranteed its group during the 1972 visit to the Holy Land.

The Fifth Annual Study Tour of Israel will once again make a March visit. The tour will bring American numismatists in face-to-face contact with leading Israeli numismatists during the evenings following day-long guided tours to historic sites. Special activities planned by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation will make possible social contact between the visiting Americans and leading Israeli officials and administrators.

While many U. S. groups of various faiths and social beliefs arrange tours to Israel, none has been able to duplicate the special arrangements with museums, with local Israeli organizations, or for social activities which have made the AINA tours the most unique in tourist history.

Facilities are deluxe in all regards: rooms, air-conditioned buses, meals, banquets in which all AINA tour participants are guests. The luxury and excitement achieved have combined to convince many past tour participants to register for this most unique travel-study experience during the year Israel and her friends celebrate the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the world's modern Jewish state.

SEND IN RESERVATIONS NOW

Now is the time to make your reservation. Sent \$100 for each mem-

ber of your party to AINA today. The balance will be due early next year. Full details of the schedule, hotels, day-by-day details will be forwarded to you.

This is the way to meet AINA members from communities across the country — and to make the trip you'll never forget for the rest of your life.

MEMBERSHIP PLAQUES ANNOUNCED BY AINA

One of the most distinctive identifications any AINA member can have for his den, office or shop is the recently introduced AINA Membership Plaque, an engraved display which is a handsome addition to numismatist's hobby and work areas.

The all-wood plaque and its beautiful emblazoned AINA seal is enhanced by the engraved member's name and AINA number. This plaque will be a lifelong memento any numismatist will be proud to own and display.



To order yours, send \$15.00 to AINA, P. O. Box 3194, Church Street Station, New York, N. Y. 10008. Add a note with your name and AINA number. Please allow 4 - 6 weeks for delivery. New York AINA members please add 7% sales tax.

BOARD SETS PLAN TO BUILD RESERVE THROUGH LIFE MEMBERSHIP PLAN

In the course of history of most national and international organizations, the highest level of honor accrues to the select individuals who show their confidence and support of the objectives of the group by electing to apply for *Life Membership*.

Across the United States, an elite group of AINA members with a desire to commit their allegiance to the goals and objectives of this most unusual numismatic organization is now coming into being. These are rank-and-file members of the various Israel Numismatic Societies across the country; past and present officers of these groups; and unaffiliated members-at-large of AINA who do not live in communities where there is a nearby AINA-affiliated group who wish the distinction of the *Life Member* designation.

PERMANENT NEW LIFETIME NUMBER

Life Members will be issued a permanent brass membership card engraved with their name and AINA number as a Life Member. They will enjoy the knowledge that their prepayment of dues for the years ahead has provided AINA with resources to conduct the ever-growing list of services to clubs and members.

Now is the time to make application for a *Life Membership* — and to receive a number below "100." The application must be accompanied by your check for \$100.00. A List of *Life Members* will be published as part of the Program for the 1973 AINA Convention.

The Board of Directors invites YOU to send in your *Life Membership* application letter today.

LIFE MEMBERS

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Morris Bram | 5. Sidney W. Smith |
| 2. Edward Janis | 6. Carl Rosenblum |
| 3. E. Schuman | 7. Harry Denberg |
| 4. B. Spencer | 8. Joseph H. Orr., Sr. |

NUMISMATICS CITED IN 16-VOLUME ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA

The one-million word, 16-volume *Encyclopedia Judaica* published in Jerusalem by Keter and in America by The MacMillan Company has a wealth of information on numismatics.

The Shekel aims to bring key sections from the numismatic sections to *Shekel* readers beginning with an early issue, thanks to the cooperation of the numismatic scholars who contributed to this most important documentation of Jewish life.

Typical of some of the insights into Jewish life provided by this 16-volume work is this except, illustrating and describing a token issued in Bombay, India.

No. 21076

BOMBAY MUNICIPALITY
The B. E. S. & T. Undertaking

ONE ANNA COUPON.

FOR JEWS ONLY

AVAILABLE ON **TRAM SERVICES**.
(For use only on Saturdays
& Jewish holidays.)

To be handed over to the **Tra**
Conductor who will issue a
ticket in lieu hereof.

J. R. TALEYARKHAN

Traffic Manager

Issued by *[Signature]*
C-32 (52-100/100.T.) 6-49.

Bombay Jews arranged for the municipality to sell them tickets in advance for travel on Saturdays and Jewish holidays. The community considered this acceptable.

RARE 1962 CHANUKAH COIN FOUND



*On left: Normal coin;
on right: rare coin.
Story courtesy 'Sha'ar',
Israel's economic daily
newspaper.*

The existence of three rare pieces of Israel's 1962 Chanukah commemorative coin ('Italian Lamp') was recently discovered.

The three pieces are in the possession of two fortunate and anonymous senior Israel Government officials, who in the winter of 1961/62 visited the Swiss Federal Mint in Berne. As a courtesy to the guests, the Mint presented them with specimens of that year's Chanukah copper-nickel coin which had just been minted there.

Upon examining the coin, one of the Israeli guests discovered a serious error in the design of the Hebrew

letters. Instead of 'Chanukiyah' (Hebrew of Hanukah Lamp), the Swiss artist had erroneously written 'Hanuniyah' with a letter 'hey' instead of the 'chet,' and a letter 'nun' instead of a 'kaf.'

The spelling mistake was, of course, immediately brought to the attention of the Mint's management. Instructions were given to destroy the entire issue and to make new dies. However, the hosts were reluctant to ask their Israeli guests to return the three pieces they had received, and thus these rarities are the only ones left from the initial striking.

LEADING U.S. NUMISMATIST AND FRIEND OF ISRAEL PASSES AWAY

Mr. Irving Moskowitz of Detroit, Michigan, internationally known for his extensive and interesting numismatic presentations, long an AINA member and the outstanding U.S. numismatic donor to Israel, died in the early summer following a brief illness.



*AINA Chapter
Member Moskowitz*

Mr. Moskowitz was honored in the July issue of *The Shekel* for his continuing generosity to the numismatic museums and displays of Israel. During the Fourth AINA Study Tour, Mr.

Moskovitz and his wife announced donation of a major collection of pirate-related coins for the newly opened Maritime Museum of Haifa. A major Moskowitz collection of U.S. gold coins had been contributed earlier to the Kadman Museum.

Numismatists around the world learned of his death by major front page articles in *Coin World* and *Numismatic News*. The story of Mr. Moskowitz's rise from the difficult years following his arrival in the U.S. as an immigrant and his vast interest in numismatics and the organization of the hobby is a tribute to the hard-work and business acumen which led to the Moskowitz success.

He will be missed by his many friends everywhere.

MEDALS OF THE



ROAD SECURITY, 1971

This medal was issued in Israel by the Transportation Department National Council for the Prevention of Traffic Accidents and presented to safe-drivers.

Metal: Tombac

Edge: Plain

Diameter: 59 mm.

Obverse: Around the rim, in Hebrew "TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS"; in the center, in Hebrew "PROJECT FOR ROAD SECURITY/1971."

Reverse: The three emblems of the municipalities of "Rishon Lezion," "Rehovot" and "Wessziona."



"GAZA SPORTS UNION" MEDAL

The Gaza Strip, on the southwestern end of Israel was under the British Mandate along with Palestine

until Israel became a State on May 14, 1948. The Strip then came under Egyptian protection until June 4, 1967 when Israel took the territory in the Six-Day-War.

The Governor-general in Gaza, under Egyptian protection, hoped to revive the name of "Palestine" in the Strip and urged the population to start a sports movement. They applied to the International Sports Organization to admit the participants from the Gaza Strip to world sport competitions as representatives from Palestine. They were admitted in 1964 to participate in basketball and table tennis. The Gaza participants played in only one international event in Sweden in April, 1967 in the table tennis events. After the Six Day-War, the secretary of the International Basketball organization went to Gaza looking for the "Gaza Sports Union," and found that the group did not exist.

It seems that after the "Gaza Sports Union" was admitted to the World Sports Organization, the Governor-general had this medal struck to be awarded to members of the winning team, and the runners-up.

Metal: Silver and Brass

Edge: Plain-looped

Diameter: 38 mm.

Obverse: Basketball scene, as depicted on medals issued by World Sports Organization.

Reverse: Arabic legend, "THE HIGHER COMMITTEE PATRONIZING THE YOUTH / GOVERNOR GENERAL ADMINISTRATION / PALESTINE."

HOLY LAND



EZIONI BRIGADE, 1968

This medal was issued in Israel by the *Ezioni Brigade Convention* in 1968 and presented to members of the Brigade along with a small pin which contains the insignia as seen on the reverse.

Metal: Bronze

Edge: Plain

Diameter: 45 mm.

Obverse: Around the upper rim, in Hebrew "ON YOUR WALLS JERUSALEM I HAVE PLACED GUARDS"; on the bottom rim, in English and Hebrew the date "1968"; in the center, on the wall in Hebrew "EZIONI CONVENTION."

Reverse: On the left, in Hebrew the dates "1948/1968"; to the right, the emblem of Zahal and below, in Hebrew "JERUSALEM."



HAGANA HONOR GUARD MEDAL, 1960

This medal was issued in Israel and

presented to members of the Honor Guard in Jerusalem on Memorial Day.

Metal: Tombac

Edge: Plain

Diameter: 45 mm.

Obverse: Around the right rim, in Hebrew "JERUSALEM 1960"; starting on the bottom and flowing to the top, an olive branch; on the bottom, the emblem of the Hagana and in Hebrew, "HAGANA-JERUSALEM."

Reverse: In Hebrew, "TO THE VETERANS OF THE HAGANA IN COMMEMORATION OF STANDING HONOR GUARD AT THE MEMORIAL CANDLE/MUNICIPALITY OF JERUSALEM."



SHEKER OFFICERS SCHOOL, PETACH TIKVA

This medal was issued in Israel and presented to the officers upon completion of their studies.

Metal: Tombac

Edge: Plain

Diameter: 59 mm.

Obverse: Around the rim, in Hebrew "YOU WILL OBSERVE ME AND THUS PERFORM/ OFFICERS SCHOOL"; in the center, the emblem of Zahal.

Reverse: Above, in the emblem in Hebrew "MUNICIPALITY OF PETACH TIKVA / HE WHO WORKS HIS LAND SHALL HAVE BREAD" below, around the circle in Hebrew "COMMITTEE FOR THE SOLDIER / PETACH TIKVA"; inside the circle, in Hebrew "COMMITTEE FOR THE SOLDIER IN ISRAEL."

**PARDESS CHANA
AGRICULTURAL
HIGH SCHOOL
ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**

This medal was issued in Israel and presented to students for outstanding achievement and was struck uniface as they were mounted on plaques.



Metal: Copper

Edge: Plain

Diameter: 45 mm.

Around the rim, in Hebrew, "OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL WORK / AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL PARDESS CHANA"; in the book, in Hebrew "IT IS GOOD THAT MAN SHALL CARRY HIS LOAD AS A YOUTH"; below the book, in Hebrew "ISRAELI FARMERS UNION."

WANTED

ISRAEL COMMEMORATIVE COINS

Singles — Collections — Estates

(Note—During our buying program we have acquired trade coins, medals and bank notes. Send want list on anything Israel).

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EVERY LETTER AND INQUIRY ANSWERED

The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. In the Hebrew dates on coins of Israel I note the small slanted mark, which resembles an apostrophe, is used in the dates of 5708 (1947) through 5717 (1957). Since the issuance of the trade coins 5720 (1960), we find that the character which is used is now a double-slanted ditto mark. Why the difference? G. K., Encino, Calif.

A. The alphabet faces of Hebrew are being increased. You need only to look at the word *Yisroael* on the 25 Mils of 1949 and the 10 Agorot of 1961. Actually, the *Yood*, tenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, slants to the right in the word *Yisroael* on the Chanuka Lamp commemorative coin of 1962 (5723). This slant is the same angle, from upper right to lower left, as the character which is inserted before the last letter to signify that the "word" is actually a number. On inquiry, I have been told that both the single and double slant character are both correct but the double marks were placed on the coinage because of the possibility of confusing the character with the tenth letter, *Yood*. In addition, the single slant character mark had a dual purpose in the reading of numbers. A single slant character after the FIRST letter (from your right) signifies the word "thousand." For example, a *beth* with a slash would be the number 2000. Because of this ambiguity it was decided to use the double mark.

Q. Is the only difference between the 10IL Shalom and Jerusalem silver coins and the 100IL gold coins the metal itself? G. G., N. Y.

A. Not so. The silver coins have a diameter of 37mm. and weigh 26gr. against the gold coins whose diameter is 33mm. and weigh one gram less than the silver at 25gr. However, the most obvious difference is that because of the smaller size of the gold coins, they could not have been struck from the same dies that were used for the silver coins. Even more obvious, which I should have mentioned prior to this, is that the silver coins are marked 10IL and the gold coins are marked 100IL.

Q. On the back of the 50 Israel pound note which portrays a Menora copied from an ancient mosaic, what are the objects to the left of the Menora? R. O., Cinn. O.



A. Although very stylized, the upper symbol that looks like a long white radish is a *lulov* and below it, appearing more like an acorn, is the *ethrog*. Both objects are used in the ancient water-libation ceremony performed during the autumn festival of *Sukkot*. The *lulov* is a sprig of a palm branch bound by twigs of willow and myrtle. The *ethrog* is a citron.

תשנ"ב
1962/5722

השי"ב
1952/5712

Look at that banknote again. It shows two *ethrogs* yet only one is used at *Sukkot* by the individual participating in the service. In the coins of the Jewish War (66-70 C.E.) we also find two *lulovs* and one *ethrog* (M 161) or one *lulov* and two *ethrogs* (M 163 and even two *lulovs* on one side of the coin and one *ethrog* on the other (M 162). In the coinage of the *Bar-Kochba War*, we find these symbols on the silver tetradrachms in the form of one *lulov* and one *ethrog* (M 165, 178-81, 199 and 201) and the *lulov* alone (M 200).

The open question at this time is whether or not our evaluation of the symbol is the actual meaning which the contemporaries desired. We feel that the single *lulov* as used by Bar Kochba are direct Temple objects, especially when we find it coupled together with the Temple and the Scrolls.

However, were not the TWO *lulovs* shown in baskets (M 161) and the TWO *ethrogs* (M 163) symbols of the offering of the first fruits of the garden which were brought to the Temple and placed at the altar? This is Romanoff's (*Jewish Symbols On Ancient Jewish Coins*) understanding of the multiple *lulovs* and *ethrogs*.

Symbols mean different things at different times. The best example that I can think of is the swastika. Under the ancient Taoist religious symbols, it denotes 10,000 years of good luck. Under modern day experiences, it is the symbol of the greatest catastrophe which happened to Man since recorded history.

Q. I know what the six pointed star is; but what is the significance of the eight pointed stars on the latest types of the trade 1 IL pieces? S. V., Atlanta, Ga.

A. This star with its eight tear-drop-shaped separate points surrounding a center dot, is the same as was previously used in the first 1 IL commemorative of 1958. This star appeared on the coins of Alexander Jannaeus and was placed on the modern coinage in accordance with

Star on early and recent coinage.



the principle of tying in symbols of the ancient Jewish coins on the modern coinage of Israel. This symbol was in contemporary usage in the Palestinian area. Jannaeus ruled from 103-76 B.C. Compare this star with the Attic tetradrachm of Antiochus VIII Grypus, the Seleucid king. This coin was struck in Ake-Potolemais (Akko) between 117 and 115 B.C. What this symbol meant to Jannaeus can only be conjecture today and should be a good topic for a monograph in the future. Like many other symbols, it was borrowed by the ancient Jewish coiners. This much we do know: that the star on this coin of ancient Selucid coinage is on the outstretched arm of Zeus and depicts a symbol that is emblematic of a religion that has nothing in common with Judaism.

Q. I believe that I have found a third variety of the one agora 1962 (H-A103). What is your opinion- Sam Schatz, Brooklyn, N. Y.

A. The small date (3) is obvious because of the touching of the *shin* with the *kof* in the date; the right straight arm of the serified *mem*; and the longer bottom arm of the *beth* in the date.

The obverses of (1) and (2) appear to be from the same hub. The reverses (the side with the denomination and the date) are different. There is a greater spread in the date between

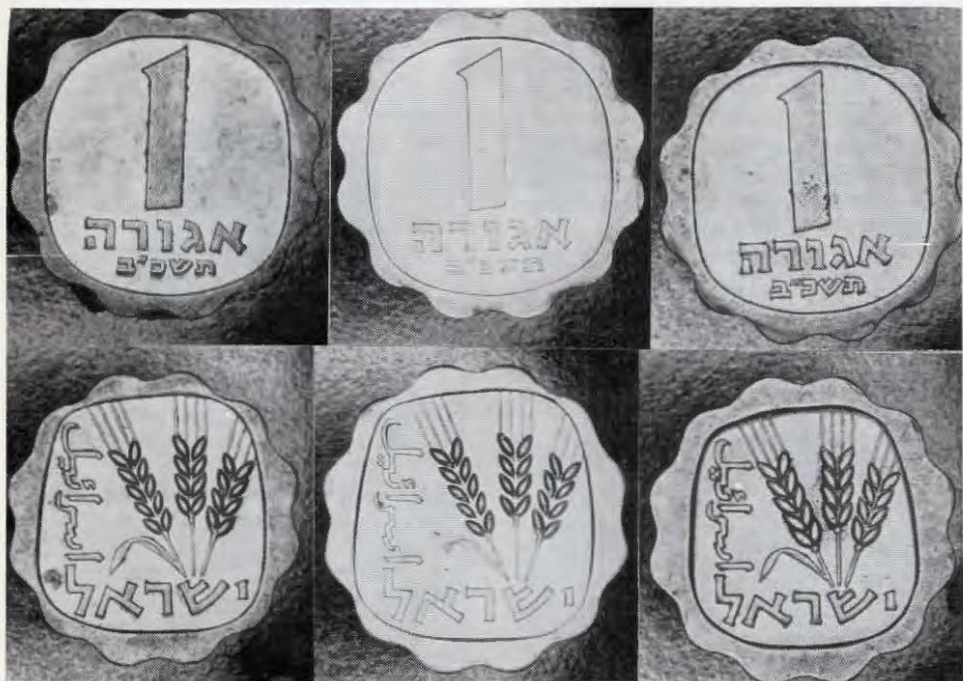
kof and the beth in (2); the slanting date marks touch in (1) but do not in (2); and the rosh and the hay are different in both. Congratulations on the discovery of another different large date 1962 one agora.

Q. I saw a reference to a club that was showing topical medals at their meeting. What does this mean? J. D., Boston, Mass.

*A. A topical exhibit pertains to a given subject matter. A few examples of topical classifications might be music medals, ships on medals, aviation on medals, architecture on paper money, fruit on coins, and so on *ad infinitum*. Some collectors only collect in this fashion. As to coin club exhibits for a given evening, it sure brings in a desired diversification.*

Q. What is the best way to tell the difference between the three different mints: Tel Aviv, Berne, and I.C.I. on the 5 agorot coin of 1961. T. B. M., Radcliff, Pa.

*A. The Tel Aviv dies were prepared by Berne. Because of their preparation by the same master dies, obverse and reverse, there are no significant differences except how a single die may have infinitely small minute differences die struck from the same master die (in intaglio). The Imperial Chemical Industries (I.C.I.) prepared their own master dies and are easily identified from the other two mints by the joined *aleph* and *gimmel* in the Hebrew word *agorot*.*



BROOKLYN NUMISMATIST FINDS THIRD VARIETY OF ONE AGORA

1962

One Agora 1962 Coins are 1, 2 and 3, left to right. No. 3 is a third variety. See "shin" touching "Kof" in date line.

A UNIQUE TOKEN OF PALESTINE

By S. MATALON, Israel

Collectors, like children, rejoice when adding something new to their collection. They rejoice ten-fold when they find something new they have never seen before, something nobody possesses, and still better — an item that has not even been chartered on their hobby's map. There we have something in common with Christopher Columbus.

Sometimes, however, this sweet illusion is blown into pieces, when we find (still worse, when someone else finds) triplets and more. Same may happen to the token shown here — so far, 50 years after it was issued, nobody is known to have it, it was never displayed either in private or in public, not even mentioned anywhere.

The information concerning this token is naturally very scarce. From what I have been able to gather, it seems that as close a description as possible to reality would probably be as follows:

The token was issued in Palestine, by the military authorities of the British Forces which conquered Palestine from the Turks in 1917. It probably dates back to the very early twenties, 1920 or 1921, and was given to cultivators of potatoes or their contractors, upon delivering the crops to the military authorities. The token was fetched to the Bank (presumably Barclay's) and cashed. It may be noted that £50 at that time was quite a lot of money. Actually, since we do not know of the existence of a second token, we do not know whether there was any other denomination besides £50. The letter "M" preceding the £ would probably mean Misr, i.e. Egyptian, and the fact is that Egyptian currency was used in Palestine at that time, until the new British mandatory currency was issued in 1927.

One last point deserving mention is that the token was issued in two languages, English and Hebrew, with-



Size: 8 cm x 8 cm. Colour: White

out the third language of the country — Arabic. This would lead us to the logical conclusion that the token signified an arrangement made between the British authorities and Jewish contractors only.

Courtesy The Agora, INS of Cleveland

Gershwin



by RUSSIN

Newest medal in the
JEWISH-AMERICAN
HALL OF FAME

\$7.50 Bronze
\$25.00 Pure Silver

magnes museum
2911 Russell Street
Berkeley, Calif. 94705

PALESTINE MANDATE 100 POUND NOTE BOUGHT BY U.S. COLLECTOR AT LONDON AUCTION

by H. Bar-Hai

The news electrified all those interested in Palestine numismatics through the world: "Stanley Gibbons" of London, known as the biggest stamp dealer in the world, recently also dealing in banknotes, offered for sale a Palestine mandate LP 100 note.

The offer appeared in the catalogue issued by the company for their auction of June 21, 1972, as follows: "552. Palestine. Palestine Currency Board. LP 100, First Issue, I September 1927. No. A000719. One other known. Rarity 7. Starting price £500." (7 is the highest grade of rarity for numismatists).

Some Background History

At the end of the British mandate in Palestine, in May 1948, there were in circulation in Palestine 1,587 notes of LP 100 each. But since 100 Pounds were, even then, "a lot of money," representing a purchasing power larger than the average *annual* income of a resident of Palestine, it is clear that they did not "just get lost," and indeed, except for 7 notes, all were presented for conversion and payment at the offices of the Palestine Currency Board in London, mostly through Israeli and Jordanian banks.

This Board, by the way, still exists formally today, it awaits those seven notes of LP 100 each, some 104 notes of LP50 each, and larger quantities of notes of LP 10, 5, 1 and half Pound, which still "circulate" somewhere in the world, if they have not been destroyed by fire or other accidents. It is, however, doubtful if these notes will ever be presented to the Board for redemption at the official rate of *One Pound Sterling for One Palestine Pound*.

Of these 7 LP 100 notes which, according to the Palestine Currency Board's books, are still in circulation, the location of one more, in addition to that offered by "Stanley Gibbons," is known. It is in the collection of Mr. Jack Fisher of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Mr. Fisher is perhaps the most important expert on Palestine mandate banknotes, and the story of his search, through many years, for a LP 100 note, in Israel, the Arab countries and Europe, is a fascinating one.

His note is of the 30 September 1929 issue, number A001020. A check through catalogues of Palestine notes shows that the note pictured in them is taken from the same source, the late Leo Kasman's book on coins of Israel. It is a "specimen" note, number A00000 of the September 10 1942 issue, perforated "cancelled." Kadman got the picture from the Crown Agents in London, who manage today the remnants of accounts of the Palestine Currency Board. In the Kadman Coin Museum in Tel Aviv the note is represented by a picture.

It is no wonder, therefore, that the offer for sale by "Stanley Gibbons" of another LP 100 — perhaps the rarest item in Palestine numismatics in the 20th century — caused a high degree of interest. The item had the highest starting price in the auction with the exception of one Victorian coin of Britain. In the sale itself it became very fast clear that the starting price was too conservative, the price jumping until it reached £1,100 — equal, even with a floating sterling, to some

Continued on page 24

THREE-SESSION COIN AUCTION SEES MODERN GOLD SET RECORDS

by El Semmelman, Haifa

The first coin auction in two thousand years in Israel was held in *Beith Harofeh* in early July, a three-day event sponsored by *Better Auction Co., Ltd.* the company of Arie Better, a well-known stamp and coin collector in Israel.

The auction was divided into three sessions. The first session, starting at 6:00 P.M. on the evening of July 4th, saw the sale of ancient Greek, Roman and Judaic coins along with coins of the ancient cities. High prices were reached for nearly all items and most items were purchased by an interested audience.

On the following day, the sale of Roman and Byzantine gold, Byzantine copper, crusaders, ancient lead tokens, Armenia, along with modern gold and silver coins and some numismatic literature were offered in an evening sale with a smaller audience than that of the opening evening. While Roman gold nearly sold out for high prices, the Byzantine gold failed to attract attention. While the numismatic books found a ready audience, little of the Byzantine copper, crusader, Armenia and lead tokens won interest.

MODERN GOLD SETS RECORDS

The peak of the auction was the third evening. Offerings of concentration camp money, coins and medals of Israel, emergency money and money of the *kibbutzim* (collective settlements) won high interest.

Gold coins stole the show with prices reaching new records. The "Israel Bank" gold proof reached the

unexpected high of 4800 pounds with other gold coins also getting top prices. The surprise of the evening was the fact that a Seafaring Commemorative did *not* sell. Gold medals of the IGCMC and of private issues reached high prices. Silver and bronze medals sold well but failed to attain the high degree of interest of the gold.

Among the guests were representatives of a few foreign countries. Local collectors are eagerly hoping for another auction in the near future.

PALESTINE MANDATE 100-POUND (Cont'd.)

12,000 Israel Pounds. The buyer was a collector of Israeli numismatics from the USA.

Some knowledgeable people think even at this price the note was still a "find." Rumor says that Mr. Fisher paid for *his* note between 5,000 and 8,000 Dollars.

Well, as we said, five more of these notes are still somewhere around . . . ("*Yedioth Ahronoth*" Daily, Tel Aviv, July 11, 1972).

(Editor's Note—According to Jack H. Fisher, the American expert on this Palestine paper money, the note was acquired by Sidney L. Olson of Miami Beach, Florida. Mr. Fisher elected not to bid for the note to permit another to have the joy of acquisition. The note brought \$2,684, reports COIN WORLD in an article by Mr. Fisher).



The Jerusalem Charity Token

Actual size.



CHARITY TOKENS FOR COFFIN BEARERS

by Dov Genachowski

These "charity" tokens of Jerusalem, dating from the period of the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, are relatively well known. They were described as such by B. Kisch in his *Jewish Community Tokens (Historia Judaica XV, 1953, p. 178 and plates II and IV)* and by Y. Shachar in the *Catalog of the Feuchtwanger Collection (Israel Museum, 1971, p. 77 Nos. 164 c-g)*.

These tokens were minted, very crudely, by hammer on thin bronze flanges of differing alloys (thus of different colours), so that the obverse shows the design as incuse while the reverse has the negative of the design. They are 18.5 mm. in diameter, and weigh, according to the thickness of the flange and its alloy, between 0.5 and 0.6 grams.

The design is four Hebrew letters in two lines; *Tzadei* and *Dalet* in the top line, *Heth* and *Kof* in the bottom line, all surrounded around by a circle of elongated beads. The purpose of these tokens was to enable the purchaser to give charity in small amounts, as they

were of a very low denomination — a portion of the lowest legal tender denomination. The usual reading of the Hebrew letters was as abbreviation, the top two letters standing for "*Tzedaka*" (Charity) and the bottom two for "*Hevera Kadisha*" (voluntary burial society) which apparently issued them.

At least so was commonly thought, and I remarked (in *Alon, Internal Quarterly of the Israel Numismatic Society, Vol. 3 No. 1, page 11*) that the only problem with these tokens was determining their value, which was unknown. Later I tried to connect these specific tokens with the various issues of the "*Torath Chaim*" Yeshiva in Jerusalem (*Alon . . . Vol 3, No. 3*). Apparently all of us were in error.

"It was told that during the First World War the Hevera Kadisha of Jerusalem did not have low value coins to pay the bearers of the coffin to the cemetery on the Mount of Olives (the Turks melted those for their copper content). What did the leaders of the society do? They went to an artisan and ordered small metal tokens bearing the letters Heth and Kof. As time went by,

these became currency. The Arab farm-women accepted them as "Yahudi nus kabak" — Jewish half kabak, that being then to lowest denomination of Turkish coinage. When the Turkish authorities heard about it, they arrested Haham Isaac Dassa and (placed) the other leaders of the Hevera Kadisha in the Jerusalem jail, the Kishla. Albert Anteby, who was called "the little Pasha" and leader of the Jewish community during those troubled times, heard about it, called the Hevera Kadisha people and asked them what happened. They said they only wanted to solve a problem, to pay their bearers and other workers, and the letters Heth and Kof do not stand for Hatzi Kabak (Half kabak, in Hebrew) but for "Hevera Kadisha." Anteby was satisfied with this explanation, and persuaded the authorities to release those arrested from jail."

Thus is the story told, in Hebrew, by Yaacov Yehoshua in the second volume of his charming book, *Childhood in Old Jerusalem* (Jerusalem 1966, page 139).

Thus we know that the tokens were issued by a burial society between 1914 and 1917, and their value was one half of a Turkish Kabak.

It should be added, perhaps, for those unfamiliar with these tokens, that they are only *mildly* rare. Because of their crude workmanship, it is easy to forge them. They were forged at the time of issue (World War I) and are, I suspect, being forged even now.

Perfect
Strike



Rare
Imperfect
Strike



Striking Error Found In Seafaring Coin

The 1963 Seafaring Commemorative Coin has been called 'the jewel of Israel's crowns'. Mainly because of its low mintage figures (B.U. - 5,990; Proof 4,500), but for other reasons too, both its varieties are the darest among Israel's silver commemoratives.

A rare specimen has been found of this choice crown, as a result of a striking error. In view of doubts that arose on the authenticity of this rare coin, it was sent for inspection to Mr. Yaakov Meshorer, Curator of Numismatics at the *Israel Museum* in Jerusalem. Mr. Meshorer is also Numismatic Consultant to the *Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp.*, and an accurate translation of his opinion, addressed to the Corporation's Director-General, Mr. Yitzhak Avni, follows:

"Complying with your request, I have examined the 1963 Independence Day Coin, in which the word 'Israel' in

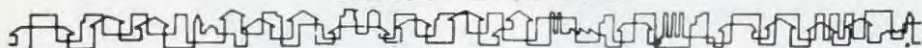
Arabic appears to be missing or been obliterated. My findings are as follows: In my opinion this is not the consequence of having used a different die, but a result of dirt having penetrated the area of the word 'Israel' in Arabic, part of the same word in Hebrew and the beginning of the Hebrew date '5723'. It frequently happens that a die gets dirty as a result of excessive use or oil drips; this produces a separation between the die and the planchet, and thus the strike does not come out perfect.

Since the dies of Independence Day commemoratives were destroyed by the Bank of Israel as soon as the striking was completed, it is technically impossible to manufacture identical dies without copying from the original die. Any attempt to imitate such a die without a copying machine can easily be detected by an expert.

Consequently the coin in question is genuine and its owner can rest assured of its authenticity." (signed) Y. Meshorer

This unusual coin is in the possession of Mrs. Alice R. Reid, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Club News



INS OF BROOKLYN ELECTS

A full program of activities has kept the rapidly-growing INS of Brooklyn moving ahead towards a first-step goal of 100 members. Members invited to the August meeting learned from the invitation that *over 80 members* had already been enrolled, according to Nat Sobel, president.

Officers for the Brooklyn club, which is already planning its 1st Anniversary Celebration, possibly a dinner, are:

Nathan Sobel President
 Harold Leichtling Vice-President
 Al Yatkowitz Secretary-Treasurer
 Board of Directors: Morris Bram, Bernard Fox, Mike Granis, Susan Fox, Rose Kantor and Alice Reid.

The meeting set for September will present the theme, "Music and Musical Instruments on Israel Coins" (Ed. — *Sounds like a suitable theme*

for an audio-visual presentation for circulation among AINA clubs). The October meeting will offer an audio-visual presentation on the Hebrew Alphabet to help members read Hebrew names, dates, inscriptions, etc. as they appear on coins, medals, etc.

The group hopes to be incorporated before the Fall is under way. It is an unusual INS club too in that members are enrolled from points in the U. S. as far as California, from Canada, and from Israel too.

SAN GABRIEL GROUP OFFERS ACTIVE PROGRAM

Over sixty people attended one of the most unusual events in the history of the INS of San Gabriel Valley of California, which along with the Israel Coin Club of L. A. and the Israel Coin Club of San Fernando Valley tendered a testimonial dinner for one of the



Specialists in Israel coins at the June Convention of International Numismatics in Los Angeles, Calif., included, from left. Dr. J. Louis Freibrun, Los Angeles, an ancient



Judean coin collector, and professional numismatists Dr. Aubrey Joffe, Tel Aviv, Israel; Mrs. Lil D. Janko, Canoga Park, Calif., who displayed coins of Israel.



Sylvia Haffner, with friends: Louis Friedman, coin dealer from Los Alamitos, Calif.; standing: Dr. Ben Gramen, Pasadena; and Mrs. Lillian (Louis) Friedman. A testimonial dinner by three INS clubs in California honored Sylvia and Manny Haffner prior to their summer departure to a permanent residence in Jerusalem.

world's most famous numismatic couples, Manny and Sylvia Haffner who have chosen to move permanently to Israel. Members Louis Friedman, Esther Bromberg and Dr. Ben Gorman, stated President Sally Marx in *The Olive Branch*, were instrumental in making the night a memorable occasion.

The August meeting was to hear Helen Coombs, a guest speaker on the theme of "Masonic Medals," an interesting side aspect of Israeli numismatics as part of a general collection of Masonic medals.

The August issue of *The Olive Branch* included a feature on flower growing in Israel, along with the news story on the Haffner dinner at which Ralph Mitchell made the main address and tribute.

An earlier summer meeting heard Milton Fishgold's presentation: "Ethiopia, Its People and Coinage," with charts, drawings and an extensive display of Ethiopian coins.

LOS ANGELES GROUP HOLDS SUMMER WHAT-NOT SALE

The August meeting of the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles added a new dimension to numismatic meetings when it included a "Blue-and-White Elephant Sale" with everything from attics and basements to be

donated to the club for sale for the club's benefit, reported *The Scroll*, official publication of the active L. A. group.

The group was one of three Israel coin collector groups in California which co-hosted a testimonial dinner to the Haffners who have left for permanent residence in Israel.

At the previous meeting, well-know numismatic writer Maurice M. Gould spoke on the topic of "Israel Numismatics in the 1950s."

Recent items of interest in *The Scroll* included a feature on Medallion Art in Israel; an article on the Bernard Baruch-South Carolina Medal contributed by Harry Flower of the INS of Illinois; and an article on the medal commemorating the Tercentary of the Resettlement of the Jews in Great Britain.

SAN FERNANDO GROUP HEARS J. J. VAN GROVER

A program on "Temple Vessels on Coins of Israel," delivered by Armando Ojeda was the featured presentation at the August meeting of the Israel Coin Club of San Fernando Valley.

Among items of interest in the group's monthly newsletter, *Ancient Scroll*, was a letter from Sylvia and Manny Haffner inviting members to visit with them in their new Jerusalem

home. The letter thanked the group for its part as one of three California groups co-hosting the evening of tribute to the Haffners preceding their departure.

J. J. Van Grover, a well-known specialist dealer in Israeli numismatics, was a recent speaker at the club, presenting "Price Trends of Israel's Commemorative Coins."

Features in the *Ancient Scroll* tend to teach members some of the details and statistics on Israel's life and culture along with news of member activities, medals, etc.

PITTSBURG GROUP HEARS OF Z. O. A. CONVENTION

An eye-witness report by Bob and Mollie Lesser of the recent *Zionist Organization of America's* Convention in Israel was one of a number of activities during the August meeting of the INS of Pittsburgh.

Plans for the elections for the group's 1972-73 year; the Tenth Auction since the formation of the Society; program review; and refreshments were combined with the Lesser report to make a full meeting, announced the mid-Summer *Newsletter* of the group.

A major talk, "How to Protect Your Coin Estate" by Jeremiah Farley covered little-known aspects of coin investments. Rabbi Aaron B. Ilson suggested that the talk would be suitable for circulation among sister societies. (*Ed. Note — If the material is provided, perhaps it can become a Shekel feature.*)

The INS of Pittsburgh is not the only INS group which has found Sunday a convenient meeting date for members; but it may well be the only one holding its meeting as a "brunch" for all attending.

INS OF SAN FRANCISCO PARTICIPATES IN ISRAEL FAIR

Over 10,000 people taxed the facilities of the Jewish Community Center in April at the Israel Fair at

which the INS of San Francisco had a booth with an official display from the Coins & Medals Corp., Julian Levin's *Israel Masonic Medals* and a part of the coin & medals collection & ancient artifacts of Cyril Magnus, president.

Mr. Magnus' collection was also shown at Hillel's *Israel Night* at Stanford U.

Officers of the California northern group are:

Cyril Magnus	President
Mireille Vidal	Treasurer
Libby Magnus	Historian
Rachael Cameron	Rec. & Corr. Sec'y

During the summer, a Fourth Anniversary Brunch was held at the Marriott Inn in the Berkeley Marina.

Members has been urged to participate in planning the 25th Israel Anniversary at Cow Palace or Brooks Hall.

MASS. INS HEARS HISTORIAN

A meeting of the INS of Massachusetts held at the American Jewish Historical Society, Brandeis University, Waltham, heard guest speaker Mr. Bernard Wax, historian and director of the American Jewish Historical Society.

Members attending learned that over 50 persons attended the last meeting, setting a new record. An extremely successful membership drive increased membership over 100% since September, bringing total membership to 95.

In honor of Israel's 25th Anniversary, and 25 years of modern Israel's coinage, members were invited to enter a contest sponsored by the INS of Massachusetts on the theme: "*Why I Enjoy Israel Numismatics.*"

The entries will be submitted to Morris Bram, President of AINA, and Rafael Aldor, Director of the IGCAM who will choose the top three entries. These three entries will be sent to Yitzchak Avni, Director General of the Israel Government Coins and Medal Corp, Jerusalem. He will pick the winner and the runners up. There will be three prizes.

Member Dave Wernick was appointed official photographer. Mrs. Charles deLlano, Ed Katz, and Fred Roganson won beautiful Israel medals at a raffle, reported Sandra Walter, Sec'y. and Ed Shade, President.

N. J. INS CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR

On June 20, 1972, the *Israel Numismatic Society of New Jersey* celebrated its first Birthday and elected officers for the following year. Carl Rosenblum was reelected *President*; Howard Finke was elected *1st Vice-President*; Max Becker-*2nd Vice-President*; Margaret Moore-*Recording Secretary*; Rowena Finke-*Treasurer*; Laura Rosenblum-*Corresponding Secretary*; Sidney Moskowitz-*Sergeant at Arms*.

The *Board of Trustees* consists of: Dr. Harold Grubin, Murray Mackler, David Rubin and Louis Susskind. Officers were installed by Rabbi Ely E. Pilchik, Rafael Aldor, Director for North America of the IGCAM, and Morris Bram, President of AINA.

Rabbi Pilchik was presented with a silver *Liberation Medal* embedded in lucite in honor of his 25th anniversary as Rabbi of *Congregation B'nai Jeshurun*.

An audio-visual program showing and describing the nine City Coin Medals prepared by Ben and Claire Abelson of California was shown.

INS GROUP LAUNCHED IN CONNECTICUT

At a meeting held in June at the Greater Hartford Jewish Community Center, a plan for the Israel Numismatic Society of Connecticut was established. This will be the 22nd such Society affiliated with A.I.N.A.

The meeting elected *pro-tem* officers with Joseph Battalio, of Wondsor, Conn., *pro-tem President*. The inaugural meeting of the new I.N.S. is set for October.

Until the I.N.S. of Connecticut establishes a permanent address, those interested in joining the Society are invited to call Mr. Battalio at (203) 688-3914.

CLEVELANDERS ELECT OFFICERS FOR NEW YEAR

At the June meeting, the following members were elected to serve during the season commencing in September:

Richard Wengel	<i>President</i>
Sanford Brown	<i>V.-P. & Recording Sec'y</i>
Jack Davidson	<i>2nd Vice-President</i>
Charles Leuten	<i>Treasurer</i>

The May meeting was held as a joint meeting with the Society of Israel Philatelists. It was a most interesting meeting with both philatelic and numismatic material displayed. Max Gladstone displayed 35 official *State of Israel Medals* in his motorized display case. There was also an auction of 10 numismatic items (donated by members) and 40 philatelic items. The proceeds of the auction went to Israel's *Mogen David Adom*.

COUNTERFEIT AND ALTERED COINS THEME OF MEETING

A family night meeting of the INS of Illinois heard member Louis Nagy who had provided a course of "Counterfeit and Altered Coins" at the Summer Seminar of the ANA in Colorado Springs, present material on this theme. He explained laws covering counterfeiting and reproduction of ancient coins for the enlightenment of those present, reports the *Bulletin*.

Among exhibits at this meeting was a short talk on the ancient Kingdom of Nabatene (Nabataea), an ancient Arab people who settled between Syria and Arabia. Aramaic language appears on Nabatean coins, reported Bob Leonard who showed two coins of the ancient group. Dr. Alan Feinberg showed a 1914 book, *A Handy Guide to Jewish Coins* by Rev. E. Rogers, London, along with several ancient Greek coins.

Educational material included in the recent issues of the *Bulletin* included a Saul B. Needleman article on "Coins Related to the Conquest of Judaea and Jerusalem"; a Flower article on the Baruch-South Carolina medal; and a Flower study on the medal commemorating the tercentary of the Resettlement of the Jews of Great Britain.

"THOU SHALT REDEEM THE LAND"

Theme of Jewish National Fund Medals

by Shmuel Matalon, Tel-Aviv

The Jewish National Fund was founded in 1901, with the purpose of redeeming lands in Israel, and transferring them into Jewish hands. Recently, the J.N.F. celebrated its 70th anniversary, so it would seem fit to have a look at two of its medals, linking past and present. One is from the very beginning, probably the first, and the other, quite new, is presumably the most recent.



The first medal is of great interest, from several points of view. First of all, it is the work of a world renowned Jewish artist — Israel Ruchomowski, who was born in Russia in 1860, and who died in Paris in 1936. He was one of the outstanding artists and medallists of Europe of his period.

On one side, the medal depicts the *Menorah*, with the words, in Hebrew "*Keren Kayemet Le'Israel*" (J.N.F.), and on the other side, a map of *Eretz Israel*, with a boy putting a donation into the famous blue box, plus the words "*Guella Titnu La'Aretz*," meaning "*thou shalt redeem the land*."

A very interesting point about the map of *Eretz Israel* in this medal is the fact that Tel-Aviv is not included, whereas Jaffa is. This gives us a clue to the date of the medal, which is undated, bearing merely the signature:

Ruchomowski, Paris. Since the J.N.F. was founded in 1901, and Tel-Aviv was founded in 1909, the logical conclusion would be that the medal was struck between these two dates.

When I contacted the head office of the J.N.F. in Jerusalem for more accurate information about this interesting medal, I was told by the management that there was no record of medals, and that they were deeply impressed by the photo I enclosed, which indicates of course, its possible rarity. It is made of bronze, size 29 mm. and weighs 10½ grams.



The second medal looks like a grand-daughter of the first. It is quite new, and is presumably the last issued to date by the J.N.F. According to information given by J.N.F. authorities, it was issued in 1968, on the occasion of afforesting the old town of the Hasmoneans - Moddiin, by South American Jewry. The medal was presented to those active in this operation. It is made of silver, size 30 mm. and it weighs 14½ grams. It is uniface, the legend reading:

"*Keren Kayemet La'Israel*" and the inscription: *operation of restoration of Moddiin - redeeming the homeland of the Hasmoneans*, with an imprint of a coin of Johannan Hyrcanus.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued)

1973 so early is the overwhelming response to the Spring mailing suggesting early reservation for the 1973 trip. We are now booking the last few families who can be accepted; and it is clear that it would have been feasible to have *our own chartered airline plane* since a 150-to-180 person group would be in the making — if we only had the hotel accommodations.

I am not saying that you should not **WRITE AT ONCE** if you are thinking about joining the 60 couples already planning the trip. But please understand that you may be told you are on a waiting list since many who have reserved will finally commit early in 1973. Everyone benefits from these trips: the numismatic hobbyist, the accompanying husband or wife; AINA; and Israel.

But there is another reason why I have been living in 1973 ahead of most of us. It will be the year for the first AINA Convention in the Spring. A Bourse is being arranged. The

business of AINA elections is being organized. The related housekeeping tasks of security, displays, showcases, publicity and so on are in development. This will mean a trip to New York on a May weekend and the opportunity to meet many of you at first hand again. Naturally we in New York are looking forward to this prime event, and hope that you are planning to participate with us.

It is not clear yet whether AINA will have an annual or a bi-annual convention plan. But West Coasters: please be assured that the *second* convention will make it easier for you to attend. Perhaps we'll select a Western city . . . or a *mid-Western* meeting point. After we have the experience of our first convention behind us, your newly elected Board of Directors (and their honorary members among the presidents of the INS clubs) will have to start 1974 or 1975 thinking.

Looking ahead to 1973 you see, has been a pleasure. And 1974 and 1975 — *here we come!*

Shalom.

Morris Bram, *President*

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MAY 3-4-5-6, 1973

**NEW YORK SHERATON HOTEL
(formerly Park Sheraton; 56th St. at 7th Ave.)**

BOURSE: Under the direction of William T. Anton, Jr. of Lodi, N.J. Dealers from coast-to-coast are already contracting to participate.

EXHIBITS: A world of exciting numismatics with both competitive and non-competitive displays. Edward Janis, chairman.

FORUM: An educational program you will not want to miss. Sparkling speakers. Fresh numismatic presentations. Moderator—Edward Schuman, Miami.

AUCTION: To be conducted by the Paramount International Coin Corporation.

BANQUET: Plan to join the festivities on Saturday Evening, May 5th — a gala occasion with your country-wide friends.

AINA ACTIVITIES: All member clubs of AINA are asked to participate in special AINA-member business sessions and elections.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Write today to AINA. Begin to plan your participation today.

NEW YORK ACTIVITIES: First trip to New York? AINA will set into motion a day-by-day plan for touring, shopping, evening entertainments.

Plan Your New York Visit Now



ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE WESTERN WALL

In this Issue: A Study of the Chronology of Hasmonean Coinage

In this Issue: Fifth Annual AINA Study Tour to Visit Archaeology Sites